

Black Frog



Update on Bruce Linsey. Ron Brown called me on Saturday the 7th. Said that Linsey had phoned him on Tuesday the 3rd (the night that he had been trying to call me). This call to Ron came in at about 11:00 P.M., which would be 2:00 A.M. in Albany. Bruce told Ron that I had paid out a \$5000 contract to a hit man--to get Linsey. Also told Ron that he had gone down and made a full report on this to the State Police. Told them all about the postal Diplomacy hobby, etc., and because of what had transpired in it that I had hired somebody to kill him. There has been no word from Linsey other than this since the third.

I don't know how many other people Linsey has told about this "hit man" story. But he has gone completely bonkers as far as I am concerned. Not that it is a bad idea, but I am really not going to waste \$5000 on him. Maybe somebody was playing a hoax on Linsey (Linsey is on record as being all for all sorts of hobby hoax's), but even so it is amazing that he would believe such a thing. Just shows what can happen to your mind when you make the postal Diplomacy hobby your entire life (instead of a hobby).

All in all it kind of breaks me up with laughter when I envision Bruce going to the State Police to file his report:

"You see officer, Diplomacy is a game you play with these little multi-colored wooden blocks."

"I started this feud with Jack Masters because his 'zine was rated #1 and mine was rated way down on the bottom of the pile."

"I started this campaign to discredit him in the hobby by telling everybody he was a plagiarist."

"Because of this he is mad at me and has hired somebody to kill me. I need police protection!"

This is probably a good opportunity for somebody else to do Linsey in. Kill him now and, in all likelihood the New York state police will be out here questioning me.

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FRIDAY THE 13th ISSUE

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#55

Black Frog

BLACK FROG is a postal Diplomacy 'zine, published by John H. ('Jack') Masters, 25711 N. Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. (805) 259-2811. Subscriptions are 60¢ per issue, but do not subscribe past issue #62. The number following your name on the address label is the issue when your sub will expire.

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I apologize for issue #53. I rushed to get in into the mail on Friday the 30th under very difficult circumstances. I had to take my wife and family to Palm Springs very unexpectedly after my father-in-law was hospitalized on Thursday night. Then in the evening I went to L.A. to pick up Keith Sherwood who was coming up for the f-t-f con the following day. I typed the issue very hurriedly in the morning and then stayed up until very late Friday night folding and stapling, etc. There were more errors that I have ever managed before in a single issue. In addition the center pages, of most issues, were folded wrong--making the issue difficult to read. (You can unstaple the center staple, reverse the fold in the center page, and restaple, if you want to correct this. The game results for "Greed" (1981K) did not get in the issue, but went out seperately to the players. They are included in this issue.

I hope all of the problems with issue #53 have been cleared up by now.

.....

A lot of NMR's this time. I have no idea as to why. Perhaps the postal holiday on Wednesday had some effect on this and a few of the orders will be coming in late. My wife's volleyball team was having a play-off game last night (the night of the deadline) so I was unable to phone everybody who had NMR insurance in order to get their orders. Just too many this time. Games in BF have had a very good record in the past for NMR's, I hope that this does not become pandemic.

.....

V.I.P. (1980KJ) and C.D. (1981CD) results will not be seen here--they are going out in a seperate flyer. This is a part of a new method that I will be using to streamline the game adjudications in the future when BF terminates.

1980HS

famine

F' 07

GERMANY HAS NO FRIENDS BUT FINDS LITTLE
OPPOSITION !!!

FRAN (Albrecht) F EDI-Nth; A YOR(h); A PAR(h); A VEN(s)
A Tus-Pie; A Tus-PIE; A Rom-NAP; F TYR(s) A Rom-Nap;
F Naf-MAO; F WES(h).

GERM (Kuszyński) F Nwy-NWN; F NTH(s) F Nwy-Nwn; A PIC-
Par; A Bur-MAR; A Mun-BUR; A BEL(s) A Mun-Bur; A
Tyo-VIE; A BOH(s) A Tyo-Vie; A GAL-Bud; A War-UKR;
A MOS(s) A War-Ukr.

ITAL (C.D.) F TUN(h); F Nap(h)/annihilated/.

RUSS (Manuel) NMR! Neutral orders by Apple Computer!
A Arm-SEV; A Ukr-Rum/annihilated/; A BUD-Rum;
A TRI-Vie; A ALB-Tri.

TURK (Hart) NMR! Neutral orders by Apple Computer!
A Ser-RUM; A CON(s) A Ser-Rum; A ANK-Smy; F AEG-
Smy; F Alb (retreat to Ion, then)-GRE; F ADR-Alb.

1907 Supply Center Chart:

FRA: Bre, Par, ~~Nap~~, Lon, Edi, Ipl, Spa, Por, Ven,
NAP (9) even

GER: Home, Nwy, Swe, Stp, Mos, War, Hol, Bel, MAR,
VIE, Den (13) build 2

ITA: Tun, Rom, ~~Nap~~ (2) short 1

RUS: Sev, Bud, Tri, ~~Vie~~, ~~Rum~~ (3) .. remove 1

TUR: Home, Gre, Ser, Con, Rum (7) .. build 1

There was no press!

Winter 1907 orders will be due on Tuesday November
24th at 12:00 noon PST. MAIL THEM IN TODAY! Spring 1908
orders will be due on Thursday December 3rd at 12:00 noon
PST.

1980HU

PESTY

W'06

HARDLY WORTH A MENTION !!

ENGL (even) Has F Nwn, F Nth, F Ska & A Kie. (J. Townsend)
FRAN (build 2) Builds F Bre & A Par; also has F Yor, F Eng,
A Bel, A Hol, A Ruh, A Mun, A Tyo, F Gre, F Ion.
(Gallagher).
ITAL (builds 1) Builds A Ven; also has A Gal, A Vie, A
Rum, A Ser, A Alb, F Adr & F Tyr. (Langley)
RUSS A Mun retreat to SIL. (remove 1) Remove A Swe; has
left F Nwy, F Bal, A Ber, A Sil, A War, A Boh, F
Sev. (Conner).
TURK (even) Has A Bul, F Con, F Ank & F Aeg (R. Brown).

.....
Spring 1907 orders will be due on Thursday December
3rd at 12:00 noon PST.
.....

Press:

PRINCE OF ROME to SULTAN ALI PASHA BROWN: It was an
accident. Honest. I didn't do that on purpose. It
was an accident.

PRINCE OF ROME to KING OF FRANCE: I was wondering? If
I support you north from Tyrolia, do you suppose you'll
go?

TSAR MIKHAIL to HIS HOLINESS: Failure can be a great
teacher for both of us. Nothing is forever.

TSAR MIKHAIL to SULTAN BROWN: Why do you think I'm against
you? Whose lies have you been buying?

TM to KING JAMES: War makes strange bedfellows, eh wot?

TM to A GOOD JOE: You're in an enviable position, and
back in Munich again. May your second stay there be
as fruitful as your first.

PRINCE OF ROME to QZAR MIKE: It's a good thing both you
and Turkey tried to take Rumania. What say next time
you both support the other in?

BLACK JACK to GALLAGHER: Sorry that your press got left
out in the confusion last time. Regarding Bell Helmets,
some styles are available in 7-7/8. I can get one for
you at dealer's cost plus UPS charges to send it to you.
Depending on the helmet, the cost is from about \$60.00
to \$80.00--about 55% of average retail. Size 8 is a
very large head, about 95% of the helmets produced are
between size 7-1/8 and 7-3/8. A Magnum, with an open
face, can be produced on a special order in size 8.

1981K

GREED

S'04

VON MARTIN GIVES ODDS FOR 1904:
GERMANY TO TAKE SWEDEN: 3-2
GERMANY TO TAKE THE BALTIC 1-1
FRANCE TO BE ELIMINATED 20-1
FRENCH EMPERORESS BECOMES PREGNANT
..... 100-1

AUST: (Quinn) A VIE(s)A Tri; A Tri(s)A Vie/dislodged &
must retreat to Tyo or OTB/
ENGL: (Arnott) F ENG-Mao; F Lpl-IRI; F Bar-STP(nc); F
NWY (s) F Bar-Stp(nc); F SWE-Gob; A BRE(s)GERMAN
A Bur-Gas.
FRAN: (Beck) F MAO(h); A Gas+MAR.
GERM: (Stafford) A Bur-GAS; A PAR(s)A Bur-Gas; F Ber-
BAL; F KIR(s)F Ber-Bal; A War-UKR; A Mun-SIL; A
Pru-LIV; A DEN(s)ENGLISH F Swe.
ITAL: (F.(n.s.)Townsend) F ION(h); F NAP & F TYR(s)F
Ion; A VEN(s)AUSTRIAN A Tri; A Mar-SPA.
RUSS: (Landon) A BUD(s)TURKISH A Ser-Tri; A GAL-Vie;
A FIN-Stp; A Lva-MOS; F GOB(s)A Fin-Stp.
TURK: (Stephens) F Eas-AEG; F Aeg-GRE; F ALB(s)A Ser-
Tri; A Ser-TRI; A Gre-SER; A Bul-RUM.

.....
Fall 1904 orders are due on December 3rd, 1981
at 12:00 noon PST. Sorry that these adjudications did
not go out with the others last Saturday. There just
was not enough time in the day to do everything I had
to do. I saw no point in holding up the other games
because I could not get these adjudications out.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Fred Townsend -- 3709 35th St. N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20016.
.....

Press:

ITALY to TURKEY: Austria's red
France is blue
Three fleets in the Ionian
Would upset you too.

RUSSIA to GERMANY: Thanks for the F build. I hope you
moved it wisely.

RUSSIA to TURKEY: Are you going to attack too? Even while Italy and Austria still live?

ZURICH: The latest betting odds for 1904 have been released, and they are shown below:

Austria is eliminated	11-1
Austria goes to one center	1-1
England takes StPete	10-1
England takes Mid-Atlantic.....	7-1
France is eliminated	20-1
France loses Spain	15-2
French Emperress becomes pregnant ...	
.....	100-1
Germany takes Sevastopol.....	15-1
Germany takes Baltic	1-1
Germany takes Sweden	3-2
Russia builds F StP(nc)	4-1
Russia takes Vienna	3-1
Turkey takes Trieste	3-1
Turkey takes the Ionian	7-2

DAS REICH to BLACK JACK: Who is this von Martin character? I thought only the players got EoE. Which game is "Dickless" Martin in? //"Bob" von Martin is the famous odds maker for the Silver Shamrock casino in Las Vegas. The Silver Shamrock is the only casino to currently maintain a "Diplo-macy Book". Naturally they are furnished with a courtesy copy.//

BLACK JACK: Seriously, the von Martin press is written by a player in GREED. If you want to find out which one, you will have to eliminate them one by one and see when the press stops. I have enjoyed the "von Martin" odds; they have shown a very good insight, by a player in the game, of events to come. I wish I had that good of insight of events to come in some of my games.

DAS REICH to RUSSIA: Glad to have your five units, but to tell you the truth, I'd rather have your 5 centers. Can we work something out?

DAS REICH to RUSSIA: Yes, like the soviets, I am a master of "misinformation".

TURKEY to RUSSIA: What did you get when you sold out? I know what Germany got.

CONSTANTINOPLE: The sultan applauds the recently formulated French/Italian alliance.

BOBBY to MARY: I hope you get to stop in Dallas when you return from MastersCon. I'd love to show you how Texans treat ladies.

BLACK JACK to JEAN MARIE: I trust you read the above press.

BLACK JACK to BOBBY & JEAN MARIE: I talked to the Memphis "flash" a couple of days ago; he is a little upset over the masquerade you two pulled on him. Also he insists that it was "Gridley's" and not "Gritley's" where you had the bar-b-que.

BS to BJ: Thank you! The rest of the way should be easy in 80KZ, huh? No, that was a dumb thing to say. Diplomacy games are never easy.

BJ to BS: Your welcome! Are positions are not bad at all. By the way, if we win in a two-way draw in 80KZ, it will make an interesting trivia question for future generations of Diplomacy players. e.g. What was the only postal Diplomacy game where the winning alliance conducted all of their negotiations in the press of a seperate game? Answer: 1980KZ. What was the game that carried the press? Answer: 1981K.

BLACK JACK to BERNIE SAMPSON: You're not reading any of this are you?

REST OF GAME to BS & BJ: What the hell is going on?
//Diplomacy!//

CURIOUS ONLOOKER to BLACK JACK: Why do you use your zine(s) as a means of propaganda to aid you in your games? Like that thing in regard to Kathy Byrne?

BLACK JACK to CURIOUS ONLOOKER: Because I haven't found any other publisher that will allow me to use his zine for this purpose!

DAS REICH to PRETTY LADY: You left us no choice! By not tending to matters in the north before your Italian campaign, you left "matters" no choice but to tend to you.

FRANCE to TURKEY: Alas, it is indeed to late to stop believing the Englishman. But then I do not blame him--the poor thing just isn't brave enough or smart enough to see "the light"!!! He will learn.

FRANCE to BJ/WORLD: Re your last explanation of my press to the Italian....the point is I gave Italy Marseilles and was simply welcoming him to our shores! And as promised, he will get control of our land, if we can help it, before those heathens from the north do.

TRIESTE: The Kaiser is alive! Dressed in the uniform of the common soldier, our leader was discovered among a train car load of wounded sent from the Russian front. These troops were participating in an attack on Turkish positions and were mercifully spared and sent home. We can only hope he will continue to be merciful to Austrians as all of Austria seems to have been handed to him on a platter.

The Kaiser's wounds were described as grave, and after being stabilized, he was moved to Tyrolia. He was accompanied by his personal physician, a squad of his personal guard, and his portable wealth. Rumors persist that he is going to Switzerland for his health.

DS to BJ: Hope you don't mind that a worthless Tretick toady is doing so well in this game. I know Michalski has fits everytime he sees a Down n Dirty.

Actually, I'm kinda pissed at Uncle Bernie myself. I just hit 18 centers in 1978KJ and plasma brain called for winter and spring orders.

BJ to DS: No, I don't mind that you are doing well. MB may mind, however. I was concerned when you NMR'd (apparently through the fault of the U.S. mail and not your own) in F'01 and again in Winter '01. I am glad to see you back and doing well now. Sort of a vindication for the computer standby positions. In most other 'zines, your position would now be being played by another player (standby) who would have had to deal with only three units in 1902. France, Russia and England may have preferred it this way--but it would not have been a better game for it.

P.S. I don't think I ever thanked you for your letter to Bernie 0 in my regards. Yes Bernie did reinstate my sub to Le Front and I have been getting the recent ones--for whatever they are worth.

BLACK JACK to ARNOTT: Do you realize that if you had written just one itty bitty line of press--that I wouldn't have to be typing this to fill up a tiny bit of space at the bottom of this page?

Twelve people actually sent in answers to these, and most commented that they really enjoyed doing them. Tom Swider was the first to get his in with all answers correct and he will get a ten issue sub to Sleepless Knights. Don Del Grande and Al Pearson also had all answers correct and they will each get a five issue sub to Sleepless Knights.

The answers:

(1.) 7 = G.P. in D. "Great Powers in Diplomacy"

(2.) 1 = C.P. for a W. "Calhamer Points for a Win"

Almost everybody got this one, a couple came up with "controlling power for a win"

(3.) 34 = D. on a D.P. "Dots on a Diplomacy Board"

(4.) 18 = S.C. for a W. "Supply Centers for a Win"

(5.) 34 = D. on a D.P. "Dots on a Diplomacy Board"

Al Pearson wrote "Typographical Error and your Fault", which is also very correct.

(6.) 12 = N.S.C. "Neutral Supply Centers"

(7.) 48 = I. of B.F. "Issues of Black Frog"

No longer correct, we are now at 55

(8.) 4 = M.F.Y.B. (for R.) "Most first year builds for Russia"

Maximum or makeable were both sent in and both allowed. Dave Carter had "Maximum for your builds for Russia" and Stephen Lee had "Most fancied yearly build for ratings" but then corrected it on the envelope.

(9.) 112 = W.B. in a D.S. "Wooden blocks in a Diplomacy Set"

(10.) 1901 = Y. the G.S. "Year the game starts"

(11.) 91355 = Z.C. for V.N.C. "Zip code for Van Nuys, California"

"Valencia, California" was also accepted, although it does not fit the equation, it is correct as well. Don Ditter had "Very Nice, California"

- (12.) 19 = S.S. on a D.B. "Sea Spaces on a Diplomacy Board"
- (13.) 35 = C. to M. a Z. (O.O.O.) "Cents to mail a 'zine (over one ounce)"

Almost everyone said they had a lot of trouble with this one, but they got it right.

- (14.) 20 = S.S. on a D.B. (including C.S.) "Sea spaces on a Diplomacy board (including Caspian Sea)"

- (15.) 18 = C. to M. a L. "Cents to mail a letter"

No longer true! Kathy Byrne had "Centers to make a loser"

- (16.) 21 = B.J. "Black Jack"

- (17.) 37 = M.L's I.Q. "Mark Lew's Intelligence Quotient"

Quite a few had "Mister Linsey's Intelligence Quotient", this cannot be accepted as correct. Even though Bruce and Mark are close buddies and it is sometimes hard to tell them apart, Bruce is the smarter of the two.

- (18.) 101 = S. by K.B. "Stabs by Kathy Byrne"

Stabs by Kathy Byrne should have been so obvious, but many put stabs by Konrad Baumeister. This was not accepted.

- (19.) 201 = N.M.R. by D.P. "No moves received by Dan Palter"

Several had "Dave Perlmutter" Not acceptable, although Dave tried very hard, he simply was not in the hobby long enough to get 201 N.M.R.'s, nor was he in enough games.

By the way Dan Palter has recently increased his total here, with a Spring 1901 N.M.R. in Russ-Q.

101 Stabs by Kathy Byrne is probably no longer correct either since the deadline for 1981C has past. But who did she stab this time? Keith Mercer? (I hope!)

- (20.) 301 = L. by A.P. "Lies by Al Pearson"

Easy! Al Pearson had an alternate answer, however, "Lovers by Al Pearson" with the notation "if you accept 'lovers' for #20, make the number 302. Well

the only acceptable answer is "Lies", but I would be willing to concede 302, 402 or 502 as the correct number.

Entries were received from Mary Beck, Al Pearson, Don Ditter, Dave Carter, Gary Coughlan, Don Del Grande, Bobby Stephens, Al Giddings, Stephen Lee, Keith Sherwood, Kathy Byrne, Bernie Sampson and an unknown dipper. The unknown dipper sent his in, but didn't have his name on it. I am very sure that it came in with a letter with his name and all, but as the entries came in I put them in a special file folder and, as I go through them now, here is this one with no name!

one of the thirteen people (including the unknown dipper is he identifies himself) who sends in a correct set of answers to the 2nd part of the letter equations (to follow) will receive a \$25.00 savings bond in addition to other prizes.

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LETTER EQUATIONS FOR THE THIRD AND LAST TIME!

The last set of equations had to do with Diplomacy (more or less). This set has to do with other games or sports (more or less). Anybody who gets the correct answers back to all of them by December 3rd, 1981 will receive a free subscription to their choice of Just Among Friends or Whitestonia. The first one, from the thirteen people sending in answers last time, to send in correct answers will receive a \$25.00 savings bond.

Here goes:

- (21.) 6 = N.P. in J. _____
- (22.) 11 = P. on a F.T. _____
- (23.) 3 = S. and Y.O. _____
- (24.) 200 = D. for P.G. in M. _____
- (25.) 64 = S. on a C.B. _____
- (26.) 7 = E.S. for C.E. _____
- (27.) 18 = H. on a G.C. _____
- (28.) 2, 3 or 12 = C. _____
- (29.) 10 = E. in the D. _____

- (30.) 16 or less = D.M.D. (at B.J.) _____
- (31.) 0 = L.(T.) _____
- (32.) 53 = C. in a D. (including the J.) _____
- _____
- (33.) 8 = W.T.W.(T.T.T.) _____
- (34.) 15 = Y. for R. the K. (F.B.) _____
- _____
- (35.) 43 quintillion = P.A. for R.C. _____
- _____

Well that should be enough. I think that these are going to be harder than the last; thus prizes will be awarded on the basis of most right. For #35 please not that 43 quintillion is equal to 4.3×10^{19} . That should be a big help.

Have fun with them.

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GREAT HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS: PART 1 IN A SERIES

Exhibit A:

Tom Swider's very first check (#101)

101

THOMAS J. SWIDER
 PH. 607-729-2830
 1183 ROBINSON HILL ROAD
 ENDWELL, NY 13760

October 22 19 81

50-947
219

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

John Masters
 Six And ⁰⁰/₁₀₀

\$ 6.00

DOLLARS



IBM ENDICOTT/OWEGO EMPLOYEES
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
 One Credit Union Plaza, 24 McKinley Avenue
 Endicott, New York 13760

Thomas J. Swider

PURPOSE

Black Fray Resub

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